

Approved – 2/10/2011

School Committee Minutes

**January 20, 2011 Cumberland School Committee Special Meeting
Cumberland High School Transitional Building Cafetorium**

Chairman Mutter convenes the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Wood motions to approve agenda. Mr. Gibbons seconds the motion. Motion carries 6-0 with Ms. Teel absent.

Reports of Standing Committees

Mr. Wood motions to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$ 1,336,818.11 Mr. Gibbons seconds the motion. Motion carries 6-0

Chairman Mutter informs the Committee that neither Mr. Prignano nor Mr. Hilton will be in attendance this evening. He mentions meeting with Dr. Morelle in the afternoon and her request to have items B-F tabled this evening.

Mr. Wood motions to table items B-F. Ms. Beaulieu seconds the

motion. Motion carries 6-0

Discussion on Superintendent Search Process

Discussion and/or Vote to Develop and RFP for hiring a Superintendent Search Firm

Chairman Mutter asks Mr. Rotella to provide an overview of the RFP process to the Committee. Mr. Rotella gives an overview and details how the last search for the district was a national search that was done in house with an appointed search committee. There is a general discussion on how to get the community, teaching staff and elected officials involved in the process. Members discuss the pros and cons of using a search firm or a citizen search committee. Dr. Carney details in her experience she has seen both methods used successfully but believes it could be advantageous to use a search firm considering all the work that lies ahead for the Committee.

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Ms. Sanzi stated that the Superintendent search is one of the most important responsibilities we presently have as a committee. She said that we either want to be great or we don't; we either want to move the needle in a significant way or we do not. She continued that there

is not a more important investment we could make than ensuring that we do everything in our power to find the best possible person to lead our district.

Mr. Wood spoke of the fact that the last superintendent search was successfully completed in house. The search committee was approximately twenty five community members and he thought they did a great job. He commented that sometimes it was difficult to get together once or twice a week. He is concerned with the amount of money the RFP would cost and where the money would come from.

Mr. Pedro remarked that he was concerned with the cost but was willing to support the RFP for the committee to see what the response is.

Mr. Gibbons states he doesn't believe because you have a tough decision you shouldn't be afraid to make it. He believes there are plenty of talented Cumberland residents to conduct the search.

Chairman Mutter states that no one is afraid to make any decision. He states that the vote is to develop an RFP. The Committee would subsequently have to approve the RFP before any other step in the process.

Ms. Beaulieu states that using a third party organization could help provide objective and unbiased assistance in a candidate search and

added that forums and surveys could be utilized to involve all stakeholders.

Ms. Beaulieu motions to approve developing an RFP for the hiring of a search firm. Ms. Sanzi seconds the motion. Motion carries 6-0. Chairman Mutter informs the Committee he will work with legal counsel Mr. Rotella to develop a draft RFP.

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School Committee Sub-Committee Assignments

Policy Committee (formerly Rules and Regs)

Ms. Teel, Chair

Ms. Sanzi

Mr. Mutter

Achievement and Communication (formerly Curriculum)

Ms. Beaulieu, Chair

Ms. Teel

Ms. Sanzi

Mr. Pedro

Public Comment

Rosemary Reilly-Chammatt addresses the Committee. She advocates for including current District Administrators in the search. She questions if members are aware of all the qualifications and certifications of their administrators and advocates for a plan of “internal succession.”

Mr. Mutter asks why she assumes we wouldn't welcome applications from within the district and assures her that we would.

Ms. Sanzi responds we have an obligation to find the best person for every open position. She concedes that it's possible that the chosen candidate could come from within the district but contends that we would be doing a disservice to students by hiring from within the district if the person we selected was not the best one for the job.

Adjournment

Mr. Wood motions to adjourn. Mr. Pedro seconds the motion. The motion carries 6-0. The meeting is adjourned at 8:10 pm.